

## TELANGANA CURRENT AFFAIRS (JANUARY-2024)

### **Operation Smile-X of Telangana:**

Recently, a total of 3,479 child labourers were rescued from across the Telangana State through **Operation Smile-X:**



- The Telangana State police carries out this operation in January every year to trace and rescue missing and trafficked children.
- The police worked in coordination with the departments of Women Development and Child Welfare, Labour and Health; Child Welfare Committees; District Child Protection Units; and NGOs to identify ‘black spots’, where children were found in vulnerable conditions

### **Child Labour:**

- Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful.
- As per the National Crime Records Bureau Report 2022, in 2021, around 982 cases were registered under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, with the highest number of cases registered in Telangana, followed by Assam.
- According to Campaign Against Child Labour’s study (CACL), there has been a significant increase in the proportion of working children from 28.2% to 79.6%, mainly because of the Covid-19 pandemic and closure of schools.

### **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**

- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution provides for the prohibition of any type of forced labour.

- Article 24 states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work.
- Article 39 states that “the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused”.
- Child Labour Act (Prohibition and Regulation) 1986 prohibits children under the age of 14 years to be working in hazardous industries and processes.
- The Census of India 2011 reports 10.1 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years, out of whom 8.1 million are in rural areas. So Government has taken Policy interventions such as MGNREGA 2005, the Right to Education Act 2009 and the Mid Day Meal Scheme to help provide guaranteed wage employment (unskilled) for rural families and retain children to be in schools
- With the ratification International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138(The Minimum Age Convention (1973) )and 182 (The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999) ) in 2017, the Indian government have demonstrated its commitment to the elimination of child labour including those engaged in hazardous occupations.
- National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme: It seeks to provide non-formal education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend and health care to the rescued children and then mainstream them into formal schooling system.
- Pencil Portal: The platform aims at engaging the Central Government, State Government, District, civil society and the public in eradicating child labour to achieve the target of a child labour free society

## **Water Plus City Certification:**

### **Karimnagar:**

- The Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar (MCK) has earned the first Water Plus City certification after Hyderabad under the Swachh Survekshan 2023 Awards.
- Both Hyderabad and Karimnagar cities were selected for the award from Telangana.
- A total of 15 cities were selected from across the country, where 7 are from South India.
- This has been achieved due to the efforts of MCK as, MCK had ensured 100 percent construction of toilets and all the public toilets are connected with sewerage treatment plants(STPs). The STP was treating the sewage water and recycling the water for Haritha Haram plantation and construction sites.
- Indore has attained the country's first 'water plus city' status in 2021.

### **Siddipet:**

- The Siddipet Municipality has bagged the Swachh Survekshan award
- It has won the award under the category of 50,000 to one lakh population in the South Zone area.

- It is a national honor bestowed upon cities exhibiting exceptional performance in sanitation and hygiene.

### **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban):**

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), the cities of the country are tested on the basis of various cleanliness parameters. It has categories of ODF+, ODF++ and Water+.

The Water Plus certificate is awarded to cities,

- Which have met all the ODF Double Plus standards. Also,
- the residual sewage from residential and commercial establishments is released into the environment only after treatment.
- Reuse of treated wastewater should also be ensured.

### **Swachh Survekshan:**

- The Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness and sanitation in cities and towns across the country as part of the 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.
- It is conducted by the Ministry of Urban and Housing Affairs since 2016. It is the world's largest urban sanitation and cleanliness survey.
- It has been instrumental in fostering a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens and also creating cleaner cities.

### **Discovery of paleolithic quartzite tools:**



- The recent floods in the Mulugu district of Telangana has led to a fresh discovery of paleolithic quartzite tools.
- The tools or hand axes were found in the sand bed of a stream that dried up after the flood.
- The hand axes were found in the stream between Gurrevula and Bhupatipuram villages in Mulugu district. The stone axe measures 15.5cm in length, 11cm in width and 5.5cm in thickness
- The new discovery pushes back the understanding about human habitations in Telangana and central India.
- According to paleontologists, the stone axe belongs to the Lower Paleolithic period and is about 30 lakh years old.
- The Paleolithic Age or Old Stone Age dates back to approximately 33 lakh years BC, spanning 10,000 years. Paleolithic hunter gatherers used heavy quartzite and large tools for woodcutting and hunting animals for sustenance.

- Also, in 1863, East India Company's Geological Survey team discovered a paleolithic site at Attirampakkam near Madras (present-day Chennai).
- Since then, Paleolithic culture has been labeled as Madras Hand-Axe Industry or Madrasian Culture.

### **Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project:**

Recently, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed Irrigation department officials to complete canal works pertaining to the Sitarama Project before the end of May this year.

The Sitaram project in India aims to provide irrigation facilities to drought-prone areas and improve water security for agriculture.



#### **Sitaram project:**

- Completing the canals would extend irrigation to over 1.6 lakh acres of land in Khammam district, directly benefiting millions of farmers and their livelihoods.
- The improved irrigation translates to increased agricultural productivity, leading to economic growth and rural development.
- Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project is a barrage across Godavari River with run-of-river hydroelectric power project at Dummugudem village, Bhadrachalam district in Telangana.
- The project is proposed at about 200 meters downstream of the existing Dummugudem anicut built about 150 years ago.

### **Nagoba Jatara:**

The developments works for the were started recently, with the inauguration of Nagoba Temple Gopuram by CM of Telangana.



### **Nagoba Jatara:**

- Nagoba Jatara is a tribal festival held in January/February in Keslapur village, Indervelli Mandal Adilabad district, Telangana, thus the festival is also known as Keslapur Jatara.
- It is a huge religious and cultural event of the Boigutta branch of Mesram clan of the aboriginal Raj Gond and Pradhan tribes, celebrated for 10 days. Tribal people from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh belonging to the Mesram clan offer prayers at the festival.
- The festival starts during the Pushya Masam of the Hindu lunar calendar
- During the festival, the maha puja of serpent god Nagoba is held.
- The Gusadi Dance performance by dancers from the Gond tribe is a major special attraction of the event.
- The event also includes a ceremony called ‘bheting’, which incorporates new brides into the clan.
- The ceremony of Betal puja, which involves display of martial art, constitutes the last of the rituals in the event.
- During the festival, the elder members of the clan fetch water from the Godavari River in Jannaram Mandal, 70 km away from the village, and keep it under the holy banyan tree.

### **Gonds:**

- Gonds are one of the largest tribal groups in the world.
- They mostly live in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha.
- Gonds are subdivided into Raj Gonds, Madia Gonds, Dhurve Gonds and Khatulwar Gonds
- It has been notified as a Scheduled Tribe.

### **Pradhan tribe:**

Pradhans are considered to be the sub-branch of Gond tribe and are traditional bards to Gonds and recite mythologies, folk tales and songs of their gods and goddesses at various festivals, ceremonies and fairs for which service they are paid in cash or kind.





## **On-Time Performance (OTP) Review:**

The airports at Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been ranked second and third among the top ten global airports in terms of operational performance and punctuality, according to a report (by Cirium).

- In 2023 On-Time Performance (OTP) Review prepared by Cirium, there are a total of three Indian airports- Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata – and one Indian carrier – IndiGo. With an OTP of 84.42%, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is at the second spot in the global airports as well as larger airports categories
- Kempegowda International Airport is in the third position in both segments with an OTP of 84.08%.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in the US has topped both lists with an OTP of 84.44%

An on-time flight is defined as a flight that arrives within 15 minutes of the scheduled gate arrival. For an airport, it is defined as departing within 15 minutes of its scheduled departure, as per Cirium

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets, with rising air passenger traffic and more airports are also coming up.

### **Civil-Aviation Sector:**

- India has become the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world. India's airport capacity is expected to handle 1 billion trips annually by 2023.
- Operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (UdeDeshKaAamNagrik) was launched to Promote air connectivity to unserved and underserved airports in Tier-II and Tier-III cities to stimulate regional growth and provide affordable air travel to the citizens.

## **State Public Service Commission (SPSC):**

Recently, Former Telangana DGP M. Mahender Reddy has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC).

The governor approved the names of five others who would be appointed as the members of the TSPSC.

### **SPSC:**

- Articles (i.e., 315 to 323 in Part XIV) of the Constitution also deal with the composition, appointment and removal of members, power and functions and independence of a SPSC
- A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the governor of the state. The Constitution does not specify the strength of the Commission but has left the matter to the discretion of the Governor.

- The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier. However, they can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the governor.

Although the chairman and members of a SPSC are appointed by the governor, they can be removed only by the president, on the following grounds:

- (a) If he is adjudged an insolvent (i.e., has gone bankrupt); or
- (b) If he engages, during his term of office, in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
- (c) If he is, in the opinion of the president, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body

In addition to these, the president can also remove the chairman or any other member of SPSC for misbehavior.

### **Functions of SPSC:**

A SPSC performs all those functions in respect of the state services as the UPSC does in relation to the Central services:

- Recruitment: Conducting examinations for appointments to the services of the state.
- Advisory Role: Advising the Governor on matters relating to methods of recruitment, disciplinary matters, and suitability of candidates for appointments to civil services.
- Promotions and Transfers: Dealing with matters relating to promotions and transfers from one service to another.
- Disciplinary Actions: Acting on disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the government in a civil capacity.
- Other Functions: Carrying out any additional functions as prescribed by the Governor of the state.

### **JSPSC:**

- As per Article 315 of the Indian Constitution, two or more States may agree that there shall be one Public Service Commission for that group of States.
- The resolution to such an agreement shall be passed by each House of the Legislature of each of the States.
- Only then, the Parliament may by law provide for the appointment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC).

### **PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM Janman):**

Centre has identified 468 villages in districts of Adilabad, Komaram-Bheem Asifabad, Nagarkurnool, Rangareddy and Vikarabad for all-round development of the identified vulnerable tribal communities under the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM Janman)



### **About PM Janman:**

- It aims to bring tribal communities into the mainstream.
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTG communities.
- The scheme will concentrate on 11 critical interventions overseen by 9 line Ministries, ensuring the implementation of existing schemes in villages inhabited by PVTGs.
- It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the PM-AWAS Scheme, access to clean drinking water, improved healthcare, education, nutrition, road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- The plan also includes the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for trading in forest produce, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.
- The scheme is expected to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGs
- The plan also includes the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for trading in forest produce, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.
- The scheme is expected to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGs

### **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):**

- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission established Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a distinct category, encompassing tribal communities characterized by a declining or stagnant population, the use of pre-agrarian technology, economic backwardness, and low literacy.
- These groups are identified as less developed among the tribal communities.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. They reside in remote and inaccessible areas, facing challenges due to poor infrastructure and administrative support.
- There are 75 PVTG communities spread across 18 States and Union Territories in India.

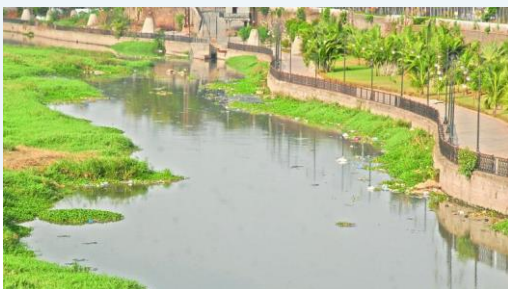


## **Rejuvenation of Musi River:**

- Recently CM announced that the state government will take up “Musi Riverfront Project” under public-private-partnership mode, without causing financial burden on the state government.
- Government aims that, Musi riverfront to transform into ‘economic growth centre’, ‘job creation hub’
- It wants to rejuvenate Musi river in Hyderabad on the lines of London’s historic River Thames. TS CM held discussions with officials and experts of the principal governing body of river Thames - the Port of London Authority.
- He learned about the management of river Thames, understanding and gathering insights from its management and collating best practices.

### **Musi River:**

- It is a river that flows through the southern Indian state of Telangana.
- It is a tributary of the Krishna River on the Deccan Plateau.
- It was known as the Muchukunda River in earlier days.
- It originates in Ananthagiri hills in Vikarabad district about 100km away from the city, passes through Hyderabad for about 55km, before entering Nalgonda and merging with Krishna at Vadapally village in Suryapet district on Telangana-Andhra borders about 130km away.
- Hyderabad stands on the bank of this river, which divides the city between the old and the new.
- Dams: Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar are the two dams that are constructed over the river.
- Bridges: The River is crossed by several historical bridges, including the Purana Pul (Old Bridge), which was built during the reign of the Nizams of Hyderabad.
- Due to random urbanization and a lack of planning, the river has become a holder of all the unprocessed domestic and industrial waste drained out of Hyderabad.



## **WE Hub:**

- The Australian government will fund a new 13-week pre-incubation program at WE Hub, an initiative of the Telangana government in India.
- This program aims to empower women, marginalized communities, and the LGBTIQ+ community in their entrepreneurial endeavors.
- StartX, the new programme funded by the Australian government, follows an exclusive pre-incubation programme ‘Upsurge,’ which had been organized earlier for 180 women entrepreneurs with the support of the Australian High Commission.
- With StartX, Government ensures that WE HUB to become a single platform for more women across the state become viable start-ups in the Social Space & International exports.

## **About WE Hub:**

- WE Hub is a first of its kind state-led platform with the primary goal to promote and foster women entrepreneurship by way of incubation, access to Government and building a collaborative ecosystem.
- Since its inception, WE Hub has conducted various programs, primarily focused on three segments/target groups of beneficiaries.



## **World Economic Forum (Davos Summit):**

TS CM has sought the cooperation of the World Economic Forum members in curbing suicides by farmers.

Steps should be taken to ensure profits to farmers on the lines of corporates and this would go a long way in checking suicides by farmers

The Chief Minister was addressing a conference on ‘Food systems and local action’ organized as part of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Team Telangana, led by chief minister A Revanth Reddy, wrapped up the World Economic Forum (WEF) conclave at Davos with investments of over 40,000 crore in the kitty after meetings with the top brass of over 200 major corporate houses over a three-day period

The state government said it inked deals worth 40,232 crore, which is nearly double of what the state managed to garner last year at Davos.

### **World Economic Forum (WEF):**

- The WEF is a Swiss nonprofit foundation established in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Mission:**

- Committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- Founder and Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab.
- Some Major Reports Published by WEF are: Energy Transition Index. Global Competitiveness Report. and Global IT Report

**WEF Davos Summit:**

A diverse mix of global leaders, tech innovators, and thought leaders gathered at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos held recently in January 2024 to tackle the most pressing economic, political, and social challenges, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) taking center stage.

**Jeevandhan:**

- Telangana has emerged as a frontrunner in organ donation in India, setting a new record by facilitating the highest number of organ donations in 2023
- In 2023 (between January and December), Telangana broke its own record that it had set last year by retrieving 728 organs from 200 deceased brain dead
- This achievement signifies a crucial step forward in saving lives and addressing the critical organ shortage in the country.

**Komuravelly Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple:**

The annual jatara of the Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple at Komuravelly in Siddipet district held on January 7th with the celestial wedding of the presiding deity.

- Komuravelly Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple popularly known as Komuravelly Mallanna Temple is a Hindu temple
- It located on a hill in Komuravelly village of Siddipet district in Telangana state.
- The primary deity is Mallanna or Mallikarjuna Swamy who is an incarnation of Lord Shiva. The deity is also called as Khandoba by the Maharashtrian people.
- Mallanna along with his consorts Golla Kethamma, Goddess Ganga and Medalamma, Goddess Parvati are at the main temple.

- The Oggu Katha singers sing the tale of Mallanna here. Devotees offer prayers to Mallanna with the help of Oggu Pujaris who draw a rangoli called as Patnam (A form of offering prayers to Lord) in front of Lord Mallanna inside temple and also in temple's verandah.
- Large number of devotees visit the Mallanna temple during Maha Shivaratri when the Pedda Patnam is celebrated and also during the Agni Gundaalu which is celebrated on the Sunday falling before the Ugadi.
- The festive season, called as Jatara begins from Sankranti and lasts till Ugadi. Large number of devotees offer prayers to the deity on all Sundays which falls in between Sankranti and Ugadi.

## Telangana Schemes:

The Congress released its poll manifesto for the Telangana Assembly Election 2023, promising six guarantees which will "help realise the dream of Bangaru Telangana". These six guarantees were categorised as "Mahalakshmi", "Rythu Bharosa", "Gruha Jyothi", "Indiramma Indlu", "Yuva Vikasam" and "Cheyutha".



### 1. Maha lakshmi:

Under this scheme, women of Telangana will receive:

- ₹2,500 every month
- Gas cylinders for ₹500
- Free travel in RTC buses

### 2. Rythu Bharosa:

This scheme is for the farmers of Telangana. Under this scheme, farmers will be provided:

- ₹15,000 per acre for farmers, tenant farmers every year

- ₹12,000 per year for agriculture labour
- Bonus of ₹500 per year for paddy crop

### **3. Gruha Jyothi:**

- Under the scheme, Congress promised to provide 200 units of free electricity to every household

### **4. Indiramma Indlu:**

Under this scheme, the Congress promises

- 250 sq yards plot for all Telangana movement fighters
- House site and ₹5 lakh for people not having their own house

### **5. Yuva Vikasam:**

This scheme is for the youth of the state. It includes:

- Vidya Bharosa card worth ₹5 lakh for students
- Setting up Telangana International Schools in every Mandal

### **6. Cheyutha**

- ₹4,000 monthly pension for senior citizens
- ₹10 lakh under the Rajiv Arogyasri insurance

**Out of the above 6 guarantee's, the following two schemes have been launched by the Government.**

### **Cheyutha Scheme**

- Honourable Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy launched the Cheyutha scheme to provide free medical and healthcare up to Rs 10 lakh under the Rajiv Arogyasri initiative.
- Economically backward sections in the Telangana state will be provided with free corporate medical treatment in all empanelled hospitals.
- Under this scheme, each family gets Rs. 10 lakh financial coverage for medical treatment.
- It is estimated that 90.10 lakh families below the poverty line will benefit from this scheme.
- 1,672 different medical packages along with 21 specialty services for patients with physical ailments are also available under this scheme.

### **Maha Lakshmi**

Maha Lakshmi Scheme Telangana is a women empowerment scheme that aims to provide:

1. Financial assistance of 2500 Rs for women of Telangana State who are the heads of their families
2. Gas cylinders at 500 Rs, and
3. Free TSRTC bus travel across Telangana.